

## Message Text

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12  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 /063 W  
----- 015046

R 161441Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1746  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PFOR, CH, BU  
SUBJECT: BULGARIAN TREATMENT OF MAO'S DEATH

1. BULGARIAN PRESS SEPT 10 CARRIED VERY BRIEF ITEM  
DATELINED BTA PEKING ANNOUNCING DEATH OF "82-YEAR-OLD  
MAO TSE-TUNG", WITH NO OTHER TITLES OR DETAILS GIVEN.  
PARTY NEWSPAPER RABOTNICHESKO DELO (RD) SAME DAY  
CARRIED TASS REPORT THAT CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD  
SENT CONDOLENCES.

2. NEXT DAY, SEPT 11, RD CARRIED TERSE ANNOUNCEMENT  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF BCP HAD SENT CONDOLENCES. SPATE  
OF ARTICLES ON THE "CHINA AFTER MAO" THEME HAVE SINCE  
APPEARED IN SEVERAL PAPERS, ALL OF THEM BITINGLY  
ANTI-MAO, TOGETHER WITH TASS AND NOVOSTI PICK-UPS.  
BULGARIAN PRESS HAS YET TO REPORT PRC REFUSAL OF  
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PARTY CONDOLENCES.

3. CONDOLENCE BOOK AT CHINESE EMBASSY WAS SIGNED  
SEPT 13 BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND POLITBURO MEMBER  
TANO TSOLOV, FOREIGN MINISTER (AND CANDIDATE PB  
MEMBER) PETUR MLADENOV, FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN OF  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (AND CC MEMBER) MILKO TARABANOV,  
AND VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NIKOLAI MINCHEV.

4. CHARGE SIGNED BOOK SEPT 15.

5. COMMENT: BULGARIANS SIGNING CONDOLENCE BOOK ARE  
AT SAME LEVEL AS SOVIET SIGNERS (MOSCOW 14381). DESPITE  
THIS PARITY, IN THE BULGARIAN CONTEXT SIGNERS ARE  
LOW LEVEL AND, ALONG WITH PRESS COMMENTARY, INDICATE  
NO FRIENDLY GESTURES ARE BEING MADE HERE--BY PROXY  
OR AS PRINCIPALS. ONE SOURCE WITHIN MFA HAS SAID  
BALANCE OF POWER IN PEKING REMAINS WITH "ULTRA-LEFT"  
AND MFA EXPECTS NO EASING OF TENSIONS IN IMMEDIATE  
FUTURE. HOWEVER, MFA SPECULATES REGIONAL MILITARY  
COMMANDERS MAY SOON GET RESTIVE, THAT POSITION OF  
CHANG CHUN-CHIAO MAY BE KEY AND THAT IN ANY CASE  
PERIOD OF CONFUSION AND INSTABILITY INEVITABLE.  
FELDMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, CH, BU, (MAO TSE-TUNG)  
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